that the actual total expenditure in the fertilizer sector in the Eighth Plan period would be more or less equal to the Eighth Plan outlays.

Production of Groundnut

2573. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the States producing groundnut and the annual production of groundnut in these States during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether the production of groundnut has declined during the current financial year;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of steps taken to assist the groundnut growers for increasing the production thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) A Statement is enclosed.

(b) and (c) The production of Kharif groundnut has been estimated at 62.7 lakh tonnes during 1996-97, which is higher in comparison to the production achieved (56.36 lakh tonnes) during Kharif 1995-96.

(d) To increase the production of groundnut, the assistance provided to the groundnut growers through the implementation of Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) The assistance is given on the production and distribution of seeds, distribution of minikits, sprinkler sets, gypsum and pyrites, improved farm implements and rhyzobium culture. In addition, the Frontline and General Demonstrations are also organised on the farmers fields to disseminate the production technology.

STATEMENT

The year-wise and State-wise production of Groundnut during the last three years

(000 Tonnes)

S No	State	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	2545.7	1772.6	2426.0
2	Bihar	4.9	4.7	4.0
3	Gujarat	676.6	2380.1	1027.0
4	Haryana	1.7	1.8	2.0
5	Himachal Pradesh	0.4	0.4	-
6	Jammu & Kashmir	0.2	0.2	-
7	Karnataka	1198.9	953.5	889.0
8	Kerala	9.5	9.1	13.0
9	Madhya Pradesh	275.0	229.2	291.0
10	Maharashtra	769.2	628.7	679.0
11	Orissa	114.0	96.4	95.0
12	Punjab	9.0	8.0	8.0
13	Rajasthan	209.3	196.2	164.0
14	Tamil Nadu	1865.6	1844.8	1912.0
15	Tripura	2.2	2.2	-
16	Uttar Pradesh	119.4	100.3	107.0
17	West Bengal	21.1	21.1	29.0
	Others	6.2	5.8	7.0
	Total	7828.9	8255.1	7653.0

Criteria for Defining Freedom Fighter

2574. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria for defining a "freedom fighter" for making the person eligible for getting various benefits and privileges under the "Freedom Fighters Pension";

(b) the facilities, privileges and concessions available to the freedom fighters and the total financial outlay therefor;

(c) the total number of "freedom fighters" availing these benefits;

(d) whether there are any outstanding claims of pension still pending clearance with the Ministry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980 a person who had undergone a minimum period of six months imprisonment, internment/ externment, abscondence (under-ground) against an executive action of the Government, in connection with his participation in the Freedom Struggle is entitled for consideration of grant of pension. Other types of suffering such as loss of Government job, confiscation/ attachment of property, 10 strokes of whipping or canning, permanent incapaciation due to lathi charge have also been recognised for the purpose of grant of pension.

(b) Details of various facilities that have been extended to the freedom fighter pensions by the Central Government are indicated in the statement enclosed. During the current financial year a budgetary provision of Rs. 190 crores has been kept to meet the expenditure on account of payment of pension and other benefits.

(c) Ever since the inception of the Scheme, the freedom fighters' pension has so far been granted in 1.62 lakhs cases. No separate statistics are being maintained about the number of freedom fighters who are actually availing the pension and other benefits at present.